

DEMING HEADLIGHT.

VOL. 10.

DEMING, GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1890.

NO. 5.

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DEMING, NEW MEXICO

COMMENT.

The *Optic* speaks of Santa Fe as the "second oldest place in the United States." Santa Fe is entitled to first place in that category.

Ten human beings and thousands of cattle perished in the blizzard which began with the year and raged over the new state of Washington for a week.

A Denver and Rio Grande passenger train was blown from the track by the wind at Monument, Colo., on Saturday last. There were about 125 passengers on the train, twenty of whom were injured but none killed.

The extension of the St. Louis and San Francisco road westward is announced from several sources. It is said that 2,000 miles of road are to be built by that company westward from their present terminus in the Indian Territory.

The *Raton Range* speaking of Col. Ryerson's work for statehood in Washington, says with a good deal of pity and point, that a few months time and labor in that benighted city will convince the Col. that it is easier to lose a county or territorial convention than it is to control congress.

The *Silver City Sentinel* suggests a timely admonition to El Paso that "if she expects to become anything more than she is, viz: a town about two hundred miles from Silver City, she must be brisling looking about her for a better water supply."

Col. Haren, Santa Fe Immigration Agent, says he feels very hopeful over the prospects of immigration to New Mexico during the present year. His correspondence on the subject from many sections of the country is large and increasing.

The Albuquerque postoffice was robbed a few nights ago, and the robbers got away with \$1,500 in postage stamps, about \$500 in currency, and a gold watch and some small pieces of jewelry belonging to Postmaster Walker's wife. They also rifled six pouches of registered mail matter.

The general adoption of some radical measure of ballot reform, something in the nature, at least, of the Australian system, promises to become a conspicuous issue in every Democratic State. Nearly every Democratic Governor has recommended it in public messages to the Legislatures of their respective states.

Colman's *Rural World* is authority for the statement that during three months of the past year the exports of cattle from the United States made the excellent average of 1,000 head per day. Through a part of the remainder of the year the average has been little less, and for the entire year it will exceed any like period in the history of this country.

Gov. Ross of Deming, is proposed as the Democratic candidate for the Territorial council from Grant county. A retired president never runs for congress.

Gov. Ross has done a great deal to disrupt and divide the democratic party in New Mexico. He seems not satisfied with his work, so far, and proposes to "keep it up." Go ahead, governor, the democratic party has stood a good deal, and can stand more of your foolishness, if it is supposed. (Nogal Nugget.)

The *Optic* adds, in rejoinder, that "the party can stand it." The *Optic* will permit a correction of its historical statement, simply in the interest of the truth of history, and without any "reference to allusions." John Quincy Adams went from the Presidency to the House of Representatives and there died in his seat.

THE TERRITORIAL MILITIA.

Under the (New Mexico) militia, as everything else of any public nature, was used by the then commander in chief, simply and solely for personal and political reasons and became a laughing stock. There was no organization, except on paper, and colonels and majors were made by the laker's dozen.

The above is respectfully referred to Col's. Bartlett, Fountain, Marmon, and Blake, and Majors Fleming, Van Patten, and Pradt, and the other brave men who endured untold hardships and risked their lives for the protection of the southwest against the Apaches, for which service the last two Legislatures, under the leadership of the *New Mexican*, refused to pay them.

ILLITERACY AND STATEHOOD.

The *San Marcial Reporter* discusses the pending statehood question with a degree of candor that has thus far been unusual with a majority of the supporters of that movement. The *Reporter* says:

If congress refuses to admit New Mexico as a state, it will be because of our high percentage of illiteracy. To overcome that objection is one of the objects sought by the progressive element in asking for admission. It is not so much the superior privileges of statehood—although we would like once more to be treated as a full-fledged American citizen—that we need, but it is the basis that would follow as a matter of course if New Mexico were admitted. Congress contemplates us to remain in a condition of tutelage on account of the prevalence of ignorance and at the same time withhold the means of improving our condition which would come with statehood. It has been suggested that in case congress refuses to admit New Mexico, a request be made for grants of public lands for school purposes and the percentage on the sale of public lands within the Territory that is allowed in states for educational purposes. This would enable us to more rapidly overcome the objections now urged to our enjoying the full privileges of citizenship, than we can unaided. We have the population, the wealth and the resources which entitle us to admission as a state; the only valid ground that can be urged against us is want of education among the masses. It is within the power of congress to aid in remedying this evil and we think that it is its duty as well. The advocates of statehood who may visit Washington during the session should seek to accomplish this, if they fail of the full accomplishment of their mission. With this gained the other will quickly follow.

There is no question as to the correctness of the *Reporter's* surmise that the conceded high percentage of illiteracy in this Territory is likely to prove an effective bar to any immediate prospect of admission to statehood. Nor is there any question as to the value of statehood to New Mexico, with that condition illiteracy once removed. As a state of the American Union, with practically a half of her people unable to read or write, or even intelligently speak the language of the country, New Mexico would occupy, to say the least, a very peculiar and unpleasant position. The conduct of the state government would of necessity be very similar to that of our Territorial legislatures—dominated by the same elements, and characterized by the same peculiarities of procedure. It would continue to be the same disgrace to the American system of local self government that it is now. The same causes that have existed in the past would still exist, and logically produce the same results.

It will not do to insist that all this would be changed by the fact of admission. The only effect that would logically follow admission would be an aggravation instead of a modification of these evils, as there would be no recourse for relief to Congress. The mischief makers who rule now would rule then with a more imperious hand, freed from all possibility of appeal to National authority for redress. In that condition there would be no hope of eventual relief through immigration and the introduction of new blood sufficient to effect a change, for American people do not migrate to and seek new homes among a people who have not a sufficient comprehension of the utilities of the American public school system. That is why the great bulk of the immigration from the east and northeast is going to the Territories north of us, and that is the reason why it is not coming here, and will not come under present conditions.

That distinctly points the need, too, of the immediate establishment of the most possible thorough system of public education. The late reports of the county school superintendents show that in a large proportion of the schools of the Territory, supported by the public funds, only the Spanish language is taught, and to the entire exclusion of the English language.

This is a very unfortunate showing, but is of record, and constitutes an effective argument against immediate statehood that cannot be explained away to the satisfaction of Congress.

The manifestly intentional defeat of the School Bill of last winter, and the elements of cunning and brutality that characterized that defeat—the one by the distinguished Councilman from the capital city of the Territory and the other by the President of the Council—have done more to con-

vince many who really desired the admission of New Mexico that she is not yet prepared for statehood, than all else combined.

Unfortunately, the records of New Mexico legislation show that this is in large part the class of men whom the *Reporter* speaks of as "the progressive element asking for admission." They are practically the only portion of the people of the Territory insistent upon immediate admission under the Santa Fe Constitution.

Members of Congress not un-naturally or illogically conclude that so long as New Mexico is governed by that class of men, she is not prepared for creditable statehood.

Nor would the situation be in the least relieved by the appropriation of public lands to the Territory for school purposes, which the *Reporter* suggests, as this same class of men would still control, and have the disposition of these lands and the proceeds of their sale. Instead of being a relief, it would simply increase their opportunities for plunder and enlarge their power of domination and oppression. There has already been quite enough of that.

The only hope of New Mexico, in the present status of affairs, is in a Congressional School Bill. Let Mr. Joseph push his admission bill, but even that needs radical changes. Instead of calling a Constitutional Convention during the coming summer and an election on the Constitution at the next November election, it should call the election for members of the Convention not earlier than November—the convention to assemble during the winter or spring and the election on that constitution and for state officers not earlier than November of 1891. That would admit of admission in time to participate at the next Presidential election.

The Congressional School Bill would thus have time to operate in the establishment of American schools throughout the Territory—for the system to become so thoroughly a fixture that there would be no danger of any departure therefrom under statehood. It would take the school question out of the arena of public discussion and cease to be in any sense or degree a disturbing element, and the lack of schools be no more an argument against admission.

Furthermore, the certainty of admission under the arrangement suggested, would then constitute an effective invitation to immigration. People who contemplate migration to a new country like to have something to say about the institutions of that country. All such would thus be notified that New Mexico is certain to become a state in due time, with American schools and all the leading characteristics of the American economies, and that they will have ample time and opportunity, and are invited, to come in and share in the work of making it such. Then they will come, and give new life and vitality to the state. Then we will have an American state, of which her sister states will not be ashamed.

A DEEP WATER GULF HARBOR.

The demand of the southwest for a deep water harbor on the Gulf of Mexico seems about to be resented without government aid, and possibly before Congress will be able to agree upon its location. Brazos is now constructing such a harbor. The jetties are already two-thirds completed, by July the syndicate of private capitalists at the back of it say they will have twenty-three feet of water in the new harbor and two lines of railway tapping the Texas systems of road. The work is building after plans precisely the same as were used in constructing the Mississippi jetties, and it is therefore pretty safe to figure on it being a success.

A deep harbor on the Texas coast means a saving of several days and fifteen hundred miles of rail earnings to tide water and ocean steamers, to all the southwest Mississippi states. That means, in turn, less freight charges to Europe and better profits and a

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readier market for the cattle and hides, and grains, ores and fruits, of all this southwestern region. It means also new railroad enterprises leading out from that port to this region to be ready to reap the harvest of trade in this new west, that irrigation and immigration will assuredly create.

The *Sentinel* makes the very safe prediction that "the cold, slimy remains of statehood for New Mexico will be buried at Washington."

It is openly stated in political circles that if certain men in the Republican party of San Miguel county fall of nomination for coveted, fat offices this fall, they will turn their backs upon the party that has favored them time and again, almost without precedent, and work for the success of the Democratic ticket. [Optic.]

Isn't this a little dodge, Mr. *Optic*, to blind your readers to the fact that the more decent of the Republicans of San Miguel County are coming over? It is an undisguisable fact that a great many of them have been incurably sickened by the action of the last two Territorial Legislatures—the seating of "that fellow" Prichard vice Martinez—for instance.

Taxation in New Mexico is not fairly regulated. There is too much valuable land which pays no taxes. Sell the property for the taxes. [Stock Grower.]

There are some millions of acres of land in the form of grants, in this Territory, which have never paid their fair proportion of taxes, and there are other millions that have never paid any. An effort was made at the last session of the legislature to remedy this not very unfortunate but dishonest state of things, but the leaders of that body being grant owners and grant claimants, and too busy making a state under which they could perpetuate this condition of robbery upon the honest tax payers, of course nothing was done. The property owner or claimant who refuses or seeks to avoid the payment of his taxes is a public robber and a private thief.

The mayordomos alert, who have been in the city for some days waiting for their commissions, were yesterday dismissed by the county commissioners and told to go to their homes, that there had been a mistake in the recent election and the old mayordomos must hold over another year. Between the Republican legislature and the Republican county commissioners a mess has been made of the election law, which would disgrace any but a natural born idiot. "Another argument for statehood." [Albuquerque Democrat.]

A good many "arguments for statehood" of similar character are cropping out from time to time. If a complete history of the last two Territorial Legislatures could be laid before the people of New Mexico, statehood would be rendered impossible, by the consent of the people, till about four out of five of their members, including the presiding officers of both branches, were laid in the ground.

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